



**RIO GRANDE ZOO, ALBUQUERQUE AQUARIUM and  
RIO GRANDE BOTANIC GARDEN**

**BIOPARK NATURE GUIDE**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**SUMMER 2006**

**WHAT**

The BioPark Nature Guide program is designed to give teens and adults the opportunity to teach BioPark visitors about the fascinating world of animals and plants. BioPark Nature Guides will staff discovery areas at the Zoo, Aquarium and Botanic Garden. Along with teaching about nature, BioPark Nature Guides will help visitors make crafts, conduct hands-on activities, and excite visitors about conservation.

**WHO**

Anyone, 14 years or older, is eligible to become a BioPark Nature Guide. Volunteers over 18 years old are eligible to become a BioPark Nature Guide Captain. Skills needed to become a successful BioPark Nature Guide include enthusiasm, a commitment to teaching conservation, a strong sense of responsibility, dependability and flexibility to learn and teach about a variety of topics. In addition, Captains need the ability to communicate successfully with young adults in order to coordinate a team of Nature Guides. All required science information and teaching techniques will be taught. As a safety precaution, all volunteers must submit to a background check.

**WHAT YOU DO**

The duty of a BioPark Nature Guide is to staff a discovery area in the zoo's Africa exhibit area, the aquarium lobby, the botanic garden pond, the Heritage Farm or the aquarium/garden plaza. Nature Guides report to work on time and in uniform. They set up outdoor displays which change daily or weekly. They keep all display areas clean. Nature Guides learn about the animals and plants involved in the program and teach BioPark visitors about their natural history and habitats. Nature Guides educate visitors about conservation and make their visit to the BioPark memorable and fun. Captains have the responsibility of coordinating the teen volunteers on duty and helping to teach visitors.

BioPark Nature Guides work as a team of teens and adults, along with BioPark staff.

**WHEN**

The BioPark Nature Guide areas are open to the public every Monday – Saturday, from June 5 – July 28, with the exception of July 3 and 4. The hours of operation are 10:00am-3:00pm. Volunteer shifts are 9:30am-12:30pm and 12:15-3:15pm. Nature Guides will sign up for at least one shift per week. If you are unable to work one of your shifts, you must call another Nature Guide to substitute – the BioPark is counting on you! Volunteers who work a minimum of 24 hours (8 shifts) during the summer will receive recognition.

<b>HOW</b>	BioPark Nature Guides must attend a training class. The first class takes place on two days – May 31 and June 1. The session on Wednesday, May 31, 9:30-3:30, will take place in the Aquarium/Botanic Garden Education Building. The session on Thursday, June 1, 11:00-3:30, will take place in the Zoo Ed Colores Building. Nature Guides should bring their own lunch or money to purchase food at the BioPark. Volunteers who are unable to attend the training sessions above can attend an accelerated one-day training on Wednesday, June 28, 9:30-3:30 in the Zoo Ed Colores Building or must make arrangements with the Zoo, Aquarium or Garden Education Coordinator to make up the training at another time.
<b>WHAT YOU WEAR</b>	BioPark Nature Guides will need to purchase a special T-shirt to wear while they work. A nametag will be provided. The rest of the uniform should be neat and professional. Short shorts are not permitted. Remember, you represent the BioPark and the City of Albuquerque.
<b>WHAT YOU GET</b>	While on duty, volunteers get a discount on food and at the gift shops. Volunteers get a BioPark Education pass, good for free regular admission to the zoo, aquarium and botanic garden during the summer. Summer volunteers get together on Wednesday, August 2, 3:30-5:00 at the zoo to celebrate the summer. Nature Guides who have worked at least 24 hours will receive certificates for their service.
<b>WHAT IT COSTS</b>	The only expense will be for the T-shirts (approximately \$7).
<b>WHO TO CALL</b>	For more information, contact BioPark Education at 764-6245.
<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>	Fill out the attached application and consent forms, and return to Albuquerque BioPark Education, Cathy Wylie, 903 Tenth Street SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102. You will be asked to complete a separate background check form.
<b>WHO'S IN CHARGE</b>	BioPark Nature Guides report to the Captain on duty or the Teen Volunteer Coordinator. At the zoo, Captains report to Allyson Wallace, Zoo Education Coordinator. At the Botanic Garden, Captains report to Amy Henderson, Botanic Garden Education Coordinator. At the Aquarium, Captains report to Dave Karrmann, Aquarium Education Coordinator. Allyson, Amy and Dave report to Bill Aragon, BioPark Education Curator. Cathy Wylie, BioPark Program/Volunteer Specialist is also available to provide assistance.

**BIOPARK NATURE GUIDE 2006**  
**Volunteer Job Application**



Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency - Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

If under 18 years old: Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_ School attending: \_\_\_\_\_

School attending next year (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about becoming a BioPark Nature Guide? \_\_\_\_\_

What interested you in the BioPark Nature Guide program? \_\_\_\_\_

What makes you a good candidate for this program? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any special talents or interests that you would like to share? (please name them)

Art, Theater, Reptiles, Birds, Insects, Marine Life, Gardening, Farming, Crafts, Other

What do you hope to gain from your experience as a BioPark Nature Guide? \_\_\_\_\_

**I agree to fulfill the requirements in the BioPark Nature Guide job description and abide by the rules and policies within.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## BIOPARK NATURE GUIDE PARENT'S CONSENT

(must be completed if under 18 years old)

I am a parent or lawful guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, a minor, (hereafter child), who will be participating in the BioPark Nature Guide Volunteer Program (hereafter Program) at the Rio Grande Zoo, Albuquerque Aquarium, Rio Grande Botanic Garden (BioPark) this summer. I hereby acknowledge that I am aware that this Program may involve a higher level of activity at the BioPark for my child than normal BioPark attendance and that my child may be allowed into areas of the BioPark not usually open to the public. I also acknowledge that he/she may have some contact with animals and that although the BioPark will take reasonable precautions for his/her safety, my child may be subject to some additional risks. I understand and agree that my child may participate in the Program in spite of this additional risk to his/her safety. I agree to have my child outfitted and clothed for said Program.

I agree that I have taken such measures as I have deemed advisable to ascertain that my child's physical condition is suitable for the Program. If I cannot be reached in an emergency, I authorize treatment by a physician.

I further confirm that my child is covered by a medical insurance policy and in the event he/she is injured I will either pay for the medical expenses and other damages or make a claim for our insurance company to pay for same. In consideration for the City allowing my child to participate in the Program, which I consider to be of great benefit to my child, I hereby agree to indemnify, release, defend and hold harmless the City for any expenses or liability it incurs or suffers as a result of any injuries suffered by my child while participating in this Program which exceed such medical policy limits, unless injuries are caused by the gross negligence of the City or its employee.

By signing below, I give my permission for my child to participate in this Program. I acknowledge that I have carefully read the foregoing and agree to be bound thereby.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone#

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone (if different)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Mail application, contract/release and background check forms to:

Albuquerque BioPark Education

Cathy Wylie

903 10<sup>th</sup> Street SW

Albuquerque NM 87102

OFFICE USE: NMSO PASS / NO PASS \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_